

Applicant : Thomas N. Corwin
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REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 5, 8-12 and 14 have been amended. Claim 15 has been added. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-15 will be pending and under consideration in the application.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 10 and 14 have been rejected as being anticipated by Mulford (U.S. Patent No. 4,658,552).

The rejection has been overcome by the above amendments in which claim 1 has been cancelled, claim 10 has been amended to dependent from allowable claim 12, and claim 14 has been rewritten to include the subject matter of allowable claim 12.

Claims 2-4, 6 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mulford in view of Egan (U.S. Patent No. 6,745,531); claims 5, 8 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mulford; and claim 11 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mulford in view of Honda (U.S. Patent No. 6,679,010).

Dependent claims 2-9 and 11 are allowable in view of the above amendments, in which these claims were amended to depend from allowable claim 12.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges that original claim 12 embraces allowable subject matter, and has rewritten claim 12 in independent form.

Applicant also acknowledges that claim 13 has been allowed.

New Claim

Claim 15 has been added to encompass another aspect of the invention which is supported by the original application (e.g., original claim 12) and which is patentable over the prior art.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and notice of the same is earnestly solicited.

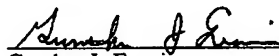
Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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